

APPENDIX 2

HISTORY OF U.S.-MEXICO COOPERATION ON NATURAL RESOURCES ISSUES

- The *1936 Convention between the United States and Mexico on the Protection of Migratory Birds and Game Mammals* enabled the two governments to work together to protect migratory birds and shorebirds by implementing hunting regulations; creating reserves; and conducting annual, binational reconnaissance and aerial surveys of major wetlands in Mexico and the United States.
- The Trilateral Committee for Wildlife Conservation of the United States, Mexico, and Canada was created in 1994 to bring together top officials, scientists, and resource managers representing wildlife agencies of all three countries to collaborate on biodiversity conservation issues.
- Other notable conservation efforts have been conducted under the *1988 Agreement on the Conservation of Wetlands and their Migratory Birds* and the *1994 North American Waterfowl Management Plan*. Under these agreements, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service participates in partnerships established in important wetlands regions of the three countries.
- The U.S. National Park Service and Mexico's Instituto Nacional de Ecología (INE, or National Institute of Ecology) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in 1988 for technical exchange and cooperation in the fields of conservation and management for national parks and protected areas.
- The MOU between the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) and Mexico's Secretaría de Medio Ambiente, Recursos Naturales, y Pesca (SEMARNAP, or Secretariat of the Environment, Natural Resources and Fisheries) concerning scientific and technical cooperation on biological data and information was signed in 1995 to exchange biological data and information networks needed to support the conservation, sound management, and sustainable use of biological resources.
- In 1996, the U.S. Geological Survey and Mexico's Instituto Nacional de Estadística, Geografía, e Informática (INEGI, or National Institute of Statistics, Geography, and Information) signed Annex II of an existing MOU to begin an aerial photography initiative along the U.S.-Mexico border. The initiative will support digital mapping efforts and the integration of geographic information systems and data for geospatial analysis for both sides of the border. The data will contribute to more effective and efficient decision making in areas such as the environment, geology and hydrology studies, waste disposal, land use planning, and pollution and disaster responses.
- The 1997 Letter of Intent between DOI and SEMARNAP for Joint Work in Natural Protected Areas on the U.S.-Mexico Border expanded existing cooperative activities in the conservation of shared border ecosystems and habitats.
- In May 1997, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and SEMARNAP signed an MOU that pledged cooperation in forestry and natural resources conservation. The MOU updated a long-standing cooperative partnership between USDA and Mexico's dissolved Secretaría de Agricultura y Recursos Hidráulicos (SARH, or Secretariat of Agriculture and Water Resources). The SARH was replaced by the current Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería y Desarrollo Rural (SAGAR, or Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, and Rural Development) and the Comisión Nacional del Agua [CNA, or National Water Commission]. The MOU identified areas of cooperation in sustainable forest management, soil conservation, and restoration issues.